

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act



**VERMONT HUMANITIES** and the **VERMONT ARTS COUNCIL**  
gave over **\$780,000** in Covid-19 Emergency Relief Grants to  
**123 cultural organizations**, located in all **14 counties** in Vermont

## **CARES Act Report to the Community**

Funding for this program is provided primarily from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

# CARES Act Report to the Community



Dear Friends,

When we each took on our leadership roles at the Vermont Arts Council and at Vermont Humanities, we envisioned future partnerships between the two organizations whose missions support Vermont's cultural sector, regardless of medium or discipline. In 2019 we co-hosted a Grafton Conference on the Power of the Arts and Humanities that brought together cultural leaders from across the state, from different generations, and from diverse perspectives and backgrounds.

In March 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit Vermont, we developed a joint response to deliver urgently needed economic aid to struggling cultural organizations. We organized weekly Zoom strategy sessions for cultural leaders, connected with our political leaders in Congress and at the State House, and advocated for resources and support for museums, galleries, historical societies, performance venues, libraries, theater and dance companies, cultural centers, and more. And we continue this daily work in the ninth month of the pandemic.

This report shows what we did with the resources allocated for Vermont cultural institutions in the first CARES Act, passed by Congress in April 2020 and distributed through the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. For the first time, our two organizations co-created and implemented a joint grant program, distributing \$781,000 in a matter of weeks to 123 cultural organizations across Vermont, in all 14 counties.

To stretch available funds, grants were awarded in increments of \$5000, \$7500, and \$10000 based on the organization's budget size. We used an equity lens to ensure that those organizations that traditionally have higher barriers to resources were funded first. Well over half of the funding was distributed to the smallest and most at-risk cultural organizations, with annual budgets of less than \$250,000.

While we appreciate this vital support through the CARES Act, the economic losses in the cultural sector are enormous. In the spring and summer months alone, Vermont cultural organization sustained over \$35 million in lost revenue. As winter returns to the United States and community spread of the virus continues, the sector continues to lose millions of dollars each month. We are grateful for the support of the Vermont legislature and the Scott administration, which allocated an additional \$5 million in July in recognition of this ongoing crisis. We urge you to contact your elected officials, thank them for what they have done already, and ask them to continue to advocate for the cultural sector, both in Vermont and across the nation. Our cultural organizations are essential for the vitality and recovery of our communities.

Sincerely,

Karen Mittelman Vermont Arts Council Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup Vermont Humanities

Vermont Covid-19  
Cultural Relief  
Grant Program

## Emergency Relief Grants

14 Counties – representing all  
areas of Vermont

\$6362 Average grant size

Grants to organizations:

71 with budgets under \$250K

36 with budgets from \$250-750K

16 with budgets over \$750K

# Arts Grants



## Vermont Arts Exchange

“When Covid-19 came to town, we basically found ourselves with no audience for our music series, no participants in our art education work, and our studio became empty,” said Matthew Perry, co-founder and Executive Director of Vermont Arts Exchange in North Bennington. The \$7500 Emergency Relief Grant VAE received from the Vermont Arts Council “feeds my morale big time,” said Perry. “Seeing the creative effort between the organizations collaborating and uniting is inspiring and hopeful.”

# Arts Grants

Organization Name	Town	Amount	Organization Name	Town	Amount
2Creative Community	Winooski	\$5,000	Revelry Theater	Burlington	\$5,000
Art in the Neighborhood	Brattleboro	\$5,000	River Arts of Morrisville	Morrisville	\$7,500
Burlington City Arts	Burlington	\$10,000	River Gallery School of Art	Brattleboro	\$7,500
Carving Studio and Sculpture Center	West Rutland	\$7,500	SEABA Exhibitions	Burlington	\$5,000
Center for Arts and Learning	Montpelier	\$5,000	Seven Stars Arts Center	Sharon	\$5,000
Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra	Middlebury	\$5,000	Shelburne Craft School	Shelburne	\$7,500
Community of Sound	Burlington	\$5,000	Social Band	Hinesburg	\$5,000
Craftsbury Chamber Players	Craftsbury	\$5,000	Society of Vermont Artists		
Gallery at the VAULT	Springfield	\$5,000	and Craftsmen	Ludlow	\$5,000
Inclusive Arts Vermont	Essex Junction	\$7,500	Springfield Community Players	Springfield	\$5,000
Latchis Arts	Brattleboro	\$5,000	Stone Valley Arts	Poultney	\$5,000
Lost Nation Theater	Montpelier	\$7,500	Stowe Story Labs	Stowe	\$7,500
Lyric Theatre Company	South Burlington	\$7,500	Studio Place Arts	Barre	\$5,000
Main Street Arts	Saxtons River	\$7,500	The Barre Opera House	Barre	\$7,500
Memphremagog Arts Collaborative	Newport	\$5,000	The Circus Barn	Greensboro	\$10,000
Middlebury Studio School	Middlebury	\$5,000	The MINT (Rutland Makers)	Rutland	\$5,000
Music-COMP	Duxbury	\$5,000	Theatre Adventure	Brattleboro	\$5,000
New England Youth Theatre	Brattleboro	\$7,500	Vermont Crafts Council	Montpelier	\$5,000
New England Center for Circus Arts	Brattleboro	\$10,000	Vermont Performing Arts League	Burlington	\$7,500
Northern Stage Company	White River Jct.	\$10,000	Very Merry Theatre	Burlington	\$7,500
Off Center for the Dramatic Arts	Burlington	\$5,000			
Opera Company of Middlebury	Middlebury	\$5,000			
Pentangle Arts	Woodstock	\$7,500			

## West Rutland Carving Studio and Sculpture Center

The Carving Studio and Sculpture Center inspires people to create three-dimensional art on the grounds of Vermont’s historic West Rutland marble quarries. A \$7500 Emergency Relief Grant from the Vermont Arts Council helped staff learn new safety practices, adapt to remote working, and find new ways of communicating with constituents. “It was the encouragement we desperately needed to move forward,” said Executive Director Carol Driscoll.



# Humanities Grants



## Out in the Open

“We have seen a large increase in requests for support from our rural LGBTQ community members during the pandemic” said HB Lozito, Executive Director of Out in the Open. The organization, which aims to connect rural LGBTQ people, received a \$5000 Emergency Relief Grant from Vermont Humanities. The funding helped Out in the Open keep staffing levels intact, launch a ‘zine exploring rural LGBTQ food traditions, and create seven Out in the Open Radio Hour episodes.

Organization	Town	Amount	Organization	Town	Amount
Alburgh Public Library	Alburgh	\$5,000	Orleans County Historical Society	Brownington	\$7,500
Alice M. Ward Memorial Library	Canaan	\$5,000	Out in the Open	Brattleboro	\$5,000
Barre Historical Society	Barre	\$5,000	Outright Vermont	Burlington	\$7,500
Bennington Museum	Bennington	\$10,000	Park McCullough House	North Bennington	\$5,000
Billings Farm & Museum	Woodstock	\$10,000	Pawlet Public Library	Pawlet	\$5,000
Bixby Memorial Free Library	Vergennes	\$7,500	Pride Center of Vermont	Burlington	\$7,500
Blake Memorial Library Association	East Corinth	\$5,000	Richard A. and Barbara W. Snelling Center for Government	Shelburne	\$7,500
Brandon Free Public Library	Brandon	\$5,000	Robert Frost Stone House Museum at Bennington College	Shaftsbury	\$5,000
Brattleboro Words Project	Brattleboro	\$5,000	Ruth Stone Foundation	Goshen	\$5,000
Clemmons Family Farm	Charlotte	\$5,000	Saint Albans Museum	St. Albans	\$5,000
Craftsbury Public Library	Craftsbury Common	\$5,000	Shelburne Museum	Shelburne	\$10,000
Dailey Memorial Library	Derby	\$5,000	Solomon Wright Pubic Library	Pownal	\$5,000
Ethan Allen Homestead Museum	Burlington	\$5,000	South Hero Library Foundation	South Hero	\$5,000
Friends of the Fletcher Free Library	Burlington	\$5,000	Sundog Poetry Center	Johnson	\$5,000
Friends of the Jeudevine Library	Hardwick	\$5,000	T W Wood Gallery	Montpelier	\$5,000
Friends of the Morrill Homestead	Strafford	\$5,000	Town of Hyde Park/ Lanpher Memorial Library	Hyde Park	\$5,000
Friends of the Wardsboro Library	Wardsboro	\$5,000	Vermont Abenaki Artists Association	Burlington	\$5,000
Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History	Middlebury	\$7,500	Vermont Council on World Affairs	Burlington	\$5,000
Heritage Winooski Mill Museum	Winooski	\$5,000	Vermont Ski Museum	Stowe	\$5,000
Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home	Manchester	\$10,000	Windsor Public Library	Windsor	\$5,000
Jaquith Public Library	Marshfield	\$5,000	Woodbury Community Library	Woodbury	\$5,000
John G. McCullough Free Library	North Bennington	\$5,000	Woodstock History Center	Woodstock	\$7,500
Londonderry Arts & Historical Society	Londonderry	\$5,000			
Main Street Museum	White River Jct	\$5,000			
Mercy Connections	Burlington	\$5,000			
Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival	Leicester	\$5,000			
Middletown Springs Historical Society	Middletown Springs	\$5,000			

# Humanities Grants

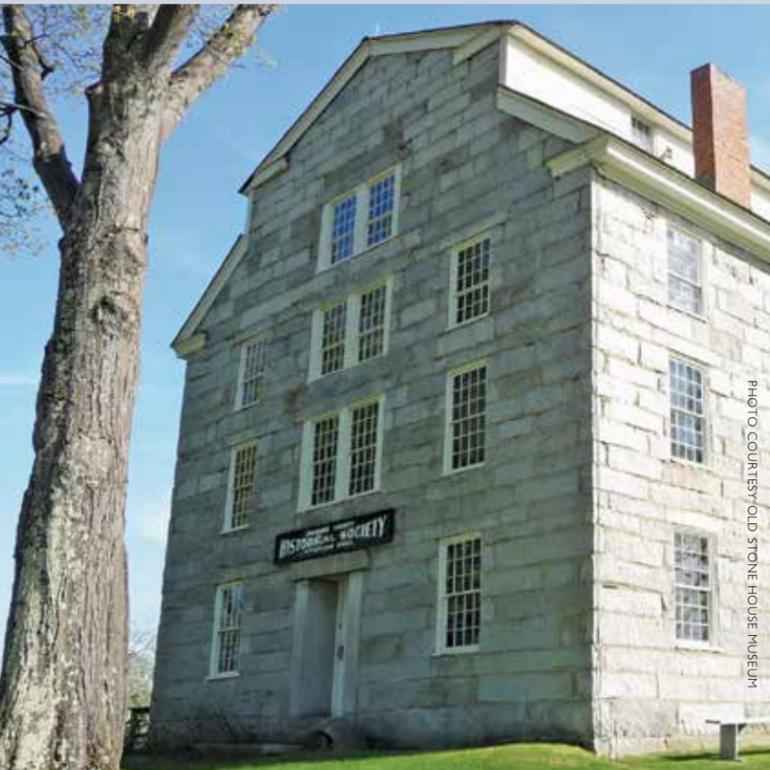


PHOTO COURTESY OLD STONE HOUSE MUSEUM

## Old Stone House Museum

Cultural organizations like the Old Stone House Museum, which is operated by the Orleans County Historical Society, are especially important in rural areas like the Northeast Kingdom. The museum includes the collections of Alexander Twilight, a progressive educator who was the first person of African descent to receive a college degree in the United States when he graduated from Middlebury College in 1823. “We’d be losing a cornerstone if we had to permanently shut our doors because of Covid-19, a lack of funds, and a lack of tour revenue,” said Executive Director Molly Veysey. The Historical Society received a \$7500 Emergency Relief Grant from Vermont Humanities.

# Dual Grants: Arts and Humanities

## JAG Productions

JAG Productions in White River Junction presents classic and contemporary African-American theatre with a goal to challenge hierarchies of race, gender, class, and sexuality. A \$7500 grant from the Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Humanities helped the organization chip away at debt and keep its staff during the pandemic. “Art is what brings us together,” said Producing Artist Director Jarvis Green. “It’s what connects us. It’s what keeps us in larger conversations. It’s how we see humanity reflected.”

## Big Heavy World

A \$5000 grant from Vermont Humanities and the Vermont Arts Council helped Big Heavy World respond to both the pandemic and to George Floyd’s murder and subsequent Black Lives Matter protests. “We perceive our role to be one of amplification,” said Executive Director James Lockridge. To help serve the Burlington community of new Americans, DJ Jules Wetchi (pictured) broadcasts community health information in multiple languages from Big Heavy World’s radio station.

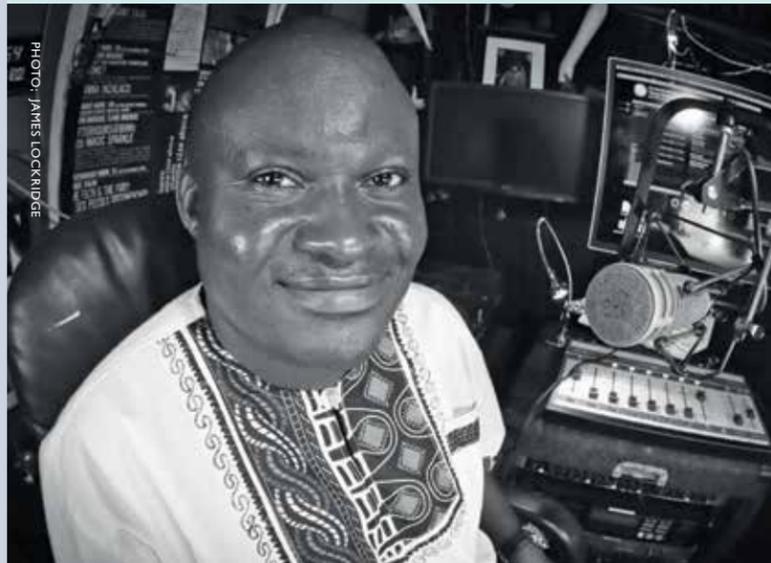


PHOTO: JAMES LOCKRIDGE



PHOTO COURTESY JAG PRODUCTIONS

Organization	Town	Amount	Organization	Town	Amount
Brattleboro Museum And Art Center	Brattleboro	\$7,500	Scrag Mountain Music	Marshfield	\$5,000
Bread and Puppet Theater	Glover	\$7,500	Southern Vermont Arts Center	Manchester	\$10,000
Bryan Memorial Gallery	Jeffersonville	\$7,500	St. Johnsbury Athenaeum	St. Johnsbury	\$7,500
Catamount Film & Arts	St. Johnsbury	\$10,000	The Big Heavy World Foundation	Burlington	\$5,000
Chandler Center for the Arts	Randolph	\$7,500	The Fairfield Community Center Association	East Fairfield	\$5,000
Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium	St. Johnsbury	\$10,000	The Vermont Jazz Center	Brattleboro	\$7,500
Flynn Center for the Performing Arts	Burlington	\$10,000	Town Hall Theater	Middlebury	\$10,000
Get Thee to the Funnery	Craftsbury	\$5,000	Vermont Arts Exchange	North Bennington	\$7,500
Green Mountains Review	Johnson	\$7,500	Vermont Curators Group	St. Johnsbury	\$5,000
Helen Day Art Center	Stowe	\$7,500	Vermont Dance Alliance	Burlington	\$5,000
Island Arts (Champlain Islands Celebration of the Arts)	North Hero	\$5,000	Vermont Granite Museum	Barre	\$5,000
JAG Productions	White River Jct	\$7,500	Vermont International Film Foundation	Burlington	\$7,500
Next Stage Arts Project	Putney	\$7,500	Vermont Studio Center	Johnson	\$10,000
Paramount Center	Rutland	\$10,000	Vermont Youth Orchestra Association	Colchester	\$7,500
Rokeby Museum	Ferrisburgh	\$5,000			
Rutland Area Art Association, Inc.	Rutland	\$5,000			
Sandglass Center for Puppetry and Theater Research	Putney	\$7,500			



## CARES Act Report to the Community



**“Our cultural organizations are essential for the vitality and recovery of our communities.”**

PHOTO: ANDY MITCHELL

The Town Hall Theater in Middlebury used the \$10,000 in CARES Act grants they received from Vermont Humanities and the Vermont Arts Council to support artists, pay staff wages, cover general operating costs, and host their first live, outdoor show since the theater closed temporarily due to the pandemic. The sold-out show by Bread & Puppet Theater was held behind Woodchuck Cider in September. Town Hall Theater later helped host other outdoor events, including the play “The Agitators” at the Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte.

